

V. REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are provisionally rejected on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 3-7 of co-pending Application No. 10/697,238 (hereinafter "D1"). The claims are canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot. Furthermore, according to the Prosecution History as reflected in the records of United States Patent and Trademark Office, D1 was abandoned on January 15, 2009, for failing to respond the Office Action issued on June 12, 2008. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 and 11-19 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Miur et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0192090 and hereinafter "D2") in view of Uchiyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,600,527 and hereinafter "D3"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The attached drawing illustrates a difference between the present invention (Fig. 4) and D2 (Fig. 8) (see the attached drawing).

D2 discloses that the opening 64 is provided at part of the monitor housing 60 for securing the LCD monitor 68 to the door so the symbols on the reel 16 as to be visible when the transparent zone 78 of the liquid crystal shutter 78 is changed in state from transparent to nontransparent.

On the other hand, the present invention discloses that, despite the fact that the light guiding plate 39g with transparency is disposed in front of the reel 2 so as to make the symbols on the reel 2 visible through the light guiding plate 39g, in order to achieve more visibility of the symbols, the light guiding plate 39g with transparency is partially provided with the opening through which the symbols can be viewed. Also, in order to further illuminate the symbols on the reel 2, the light guiding plate 39g is disposed at a side of the reel 2 and the illumination part 40b is provided between the light guiding plate 39g and the reel 2. As a result, it is assumed that the present invention produces an effect that the symbols can be more clearly viewed through the

opening 56 of the light guiding plate 39g while the entire of the reel 2 can be shown from a side of the liquid crystal panel 39.

In comparison to the present invention, according to D2, the symbols are displayed on the transparent zone 78 of the liquid crystal shutter 76 only while the monitor housing 60 secures the LCD monitor 68 to the door. Therefore, there is a low possibility that the flat face of the monitor housing 60 is entirely transparent. Thus, it is assumed that only the symbols are displayed on the LCD monitor and the reel 16 is not entirely displayed.

Further, D2 discloses the transparent panel 84 similar to the light guiding plate 39g, at the rear face of the LCD monitor 68. However, there is a difference from the plate 39g in that the panel 84 is not provided with the opening.

Yet further, D2 discloses elements such as the opening 64 of the monitor housing 60 and the transparent zone 78 of the liquid crystal shutter 76 provided in front of the reel 16 so the symbols on the reel 16 as to be visible. However, the function of these elements is completely different from that of the opening 56 of the light guiding plate 39g according to the present invention.

In view of the fact that even the light guiding plate with transparency shuts off the visibility to some extent, the opening 56 of the light guiding plate 39g according to the present invention functions such that the symbols on the reels 2 to which players playing the slot machine of this type pay attention are viewed more clearly, as is clear from the proposed claims for amendment in the attached sheet.

D2 disclose no opening at the light guiding plate 84. Not only that, but D2 is also not intended to enhance the visibility of the symbols for the reason that the performance of the slot machine is affected. This is because D2 discloses the liquid crystal shutter 78 as a part for displaying the symbols, which degrades the transparency. Further, although D2 discloses the opening 64 provided at the monitor housing 60, this opening 64 is not provided to improve the transparency of the light guiding plate 84 but to simply form a display window of the symbols.

As stated above, the opening according to the present invention and that according to D2 are completely different in consideration of improvement in the shutoff function of the light guiding plate through which the symbols are transparently viewed.

Therefore, the present invention and the invention in D2 are different in the point aimed at, leading to different techniques and effects.

Meanwhile, Cited Reference D3 is related to a gaming machine for displaying a virtual image for an image of the image displaying device, which superimposes and displays the aforementioned virtual image on the symbols of the reel. Thus, D3 does not disclose any characteristics of the display device according to the present invention.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of the newly-added claims as discussed above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that the newly-added claims are allowable over the applied art.

Support for the newly-added claims is found in the specification in Paragraphs [0027]; [0029]; [0030]; [0058]; and [0059].

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything

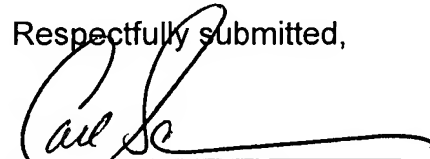
further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Illustrative Drawing Figures

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(These drawing figures are presented for explanation purposes only to assist the Examiner in understanding the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art; these illustrative drawing figures are NOT replacement drawings or annotated drawings or new drawings directly associated with the application)

Cited Reference D2

